

REMARKS**Status of Claims**

Claims 1 and 3-18 remain for examination.

Amendments:

Claim 1 has been amended to reorganize and simplify its language and to eliminate redundancies in its wording. The amendments were not made for the purpose of distinguishing over the prior art. Claims 3, 6, 7, 1, 12, 13, 14, and 16 are amended to be consistent with claim 1. Claim 18 is rewritten in independent form and now recites all of the elements recited in amended claim 1. No new matter is added.

Rejections Under Section 101:

All claims were rejected as being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. The rejection is traversed. Claims 1 and 3-17 define a system in means-plus-function language. Section 112, sixth paragraph states that such claims cover the structure disclosed in the specification for performing the recited function, and equivalent structure. The specification discloses that the means are implemented in a server or terminal device, as specified in claims 14 and 16. Servers and terminals are indisputably statutory subject matter, notwithstanding that software is used to cause them to operate in specific ways. Therefore claims 1 and 3-17 are by definition drawn to statutory subject matter.

Claim 18 is rewritten to clearly state that it is drawn to a storage medium that stores computer-readable instructions for configuring a computing device to operate as a schedule information system, whose elements are then defined in the remainder of the claim. A storage medium is statutory subject matter.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3-4 and 6-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Yonemitsu (6,856,962) in view of Ford (6,480,830). Claim 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Yonemitsu, Ford and Van Horne.

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 which now recites:

1. (Currently Amended) A schedule information system comprising:
schedule data storage means in which users' schedule data are stored;
related service search means for using an internet-based search engine to search for
first related information that relates to the schedule data stored in the schedule
data storage means;
information service data storage means for storing second related information
summarizing the first related information; and
means for acquiring the first related information and outputting the schedule data, the
first related information and the second related information to a user in
response to a user instruction,
said first and second related information being other than schedule data of another
user.

In other words, a schedule data system stores schedule data, can search the internet for data related to the schedule data, and can present the user with the schedule data, the first related data, and second related data that summarizes the first related data. The second related information is a summary of the first related information found by the internet search engine.

The cited art does not suggest a system having these features.

Yonemitsu presents a schedule management system that services multiple users, and that allows users to add events to the schedules of other users after determining whether those events present conflicts with events already scheduled. The system also allows each user to make his schedule visible or not visible to other users. Consequently, a user who accesses the schedule data of other users (for example, to find an appropriate time for a meeting) will or will not see each user's schedule data depending on how it has been designated by each individual user. At a general level Yonemitsu involves scheduling systems, but it lacks most of the feature required by the present claims and therefore has little relevance to the present claims. Yonemitsu should be withdrawn from use in rejecting the claims of the present application.

Ford presents a calendar system that has the capability of sending messages based on the data stored in the calendar. Among the messages that the system can send is a message to an internet search engine (2:49-50). Results from the search engine are made available to the user as hyperlinks: "the search results are made available to the user by the web browser 410, which displays hyperlinks to the relevant sources" (12:54-56).

Ford's internet search and retrieval features are not the same as those presently claimed. The present claims require "information service data storage means for storing second related information summarizing the first related information" and "means for acquiring the first related information and outputting the schedule data, the first related information and the second related information to a user in response to a user instruction."

Ford does not have "second related information summarizing the first related information." Ford performs an internet search. Assuming that the search results constitute first related information, there is no second related information that summarizes the first related information. Ford merely displays hyperlinks to search results. Therefore Ford does not meet the requirements of the present claims to have means that store second related information, and means that present second related information in response to a user instruction.

Ford also does not acquire first related information in response to a user instruction. Ford clearly teaches that the system automatically sends messages such as search engine requests, without any user instruction:

"On an appropriate basis or schedule, the engine 404 automatically initiates actions appropriate to the corresponding calendar entry. Chiefly, such actions involve sending machine-readable messages in support of the calendar entry." (7:25-28)

Therefore Ford does not meet the requirements of the present claims to have means that acquire the first related information and output the first related information in response to a user instruction.

In view of these differences, the combined teachings of the Yonemitsu and Ford references does not make obvious the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 18 or the dependent claims. Although the rejection attempted to locate most features of the previous claims in Yonemitsu, the Yonemitsu system is simply a scheduling system with none of the important features of the present claims. Ford describes an internet search based on a calendar entry, but the search simply results in a display of hyperlinks to the user. These teachings do not lead one to the idea of a scheduling system that performs an internet search based on schedule data in response to a user instruction, and presents the search results along with a summary of the search results. Rather, those features are outside of the scope of Yonemitsu and Ford, and therefore make the claims non-obvious.

MPEP § 2143.03 states that “[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.” In light of the difference discussed above, it is submitted that the PTO has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 for claims 1 or 18, or the dependent claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any missing fees or additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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